

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**  
**NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**  
7TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

March 29th, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, the Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth H.O.B.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Borden Avenue Veterans Shelter Flood Resilience Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is New York City Department of Homeless Services, located at 33 Beaver Street, New York, NY 10004. The funding would be used to provide flood mitigation at a NYC homeless shelter for veterans to and protect against a 500-year level flood event. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the site can house more than one-third of New York City's homeless veteran population, providing them with shelter, food, medical, and other critical services. The residence serves a population which is extremely socially vulnerable and additionally, at higher risk of health impacts from extreme weather conditions than other groups. This shovel-ready project will strengthen a crucial housing lifeline for homeless veterans in the face increased flood risk.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 203 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5133), as amended by Section 1234, National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation, of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Nydia M. Velázquez

Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
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March 30, 2023

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H-305, the Capitol  
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The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
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Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro, I am requesting funding **Project Abrazar** in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Boricua College, located at 9 Graham Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11206.

The funding would support a workforce development program that will expand educational opportunities for and improve the academic attainment of at-risk community members. Without industry-recognized credentials, low-income workers can't qualify for the well-paying jobs they need to move out of poverty. Expanding employment and educational opportunities is an important crime-fighting strategy. Boricua College's programs will provide job training, wraparound social service support, including educational financial aid assistance, mental health counseling, meaningful work, internship opportunities, and community engagement.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because will connect low-income families to wraparound social service support, including educational financial aid assistance, mental health counseling, meaningful work and internship opportunities, and community engagement. The program will also provide opportunities and pathways for self-sufficiency thus addressing the root causes of poverty and ultimately prevent crime. These services provided will promote healthy development and greater wellbeing of families and children. The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS  
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Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
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March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
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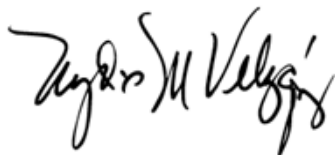
Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Dutch Kills Shoreline Restoration in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is New York City Department of Environmental Protection located at 59-17 Junction Boulevard, Elmhurst, New York, 11373. The funding would be used for reconstruction of the currently eroded bulkhead into intertidal habitat and salt marsh along 29th street in Long Island City, to absorb and filter stormwater runoff and create public waterway access. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it is a smart investment that will replace crumbling infrastructure, unsafe street conditions and an area prone to flooding with a more resilient solution to collect stormwater, improve water quality in Newtown Creek, and create a significant community amenity for local students and workers.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



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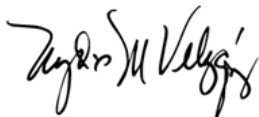
Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for **the ENYCLT Affordable Homeownership Project** in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is East New York CLT Inc., located at 2966 Fulton St, Brooklyn, New York, 11208. The funding will be used for acquisition to create perpetual affordable home ownership. The nonprofit will either 1) remove another blighted vacant/dilapidated building within the overlapping Brownfield Opportunity Area in Congressional District 7 and develop it or 2) create affordable ownership options for existing tenants to own their building collectively whereby harassment is taking place by the landlord.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will add to the long history of community project developments that nonprofits have invested in to further expand the housing safety net. This affordable home ownership project will be unique in Congressional D-07 in that it will be the first non-profit affordable housing project that will be founded on a ground lease model, a model that Community Land Trusts use to establish permanent affordability of land.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velázquez

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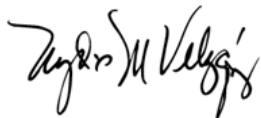
Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for **9 Million Reasons Food Pantry Operation Expansion** in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is 9 Million Reasons, located at 39-20 27th Street, Long Island City, New York, 11101. The funding will be used to upgrade and expand the 35-year-old kitchen, add refrigeration to the cafeteria and build shelving for better dry goods storage. This expansion will increase capacity allowing the organization to meet the increasing demand of New Yorkers struggling to make ends meet each day.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because investing in upgrading the kitchen facilities and transforming the cafeteria into a refrigeration area, would allow the organization to increase the capacity of the food pantry to serve more migrants each day. This would not only help to address food insecurity and provide sustenance to those who need it, but it would also have a positive impact on the community by creating jobs and stimulating the local economy.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

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Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro, I am requesting **Fresh Plate-Fresh Start** in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Queens Economic Development Corporation, located at 36-46 37 St., Long Island City New York, 11101.

The funding would help fund the creation of a jobs portal that bridges the gap between local restaurants in need of skilled kitchen staff and previously convicted adults, or other disadvantaged adults, who have graduated from kitchen jobs training programs. This innovative platform provides a second chance for individuals seeking a fresh start while addressing the staffing challenges faced by restaurants in Queens and Brooklyn, New York. This program will train those formerly incarcerated for jobs in the food industry and developing a portal to connect them to local businesses seeking employees. By creating meaningful employment opportunities, FreshPlate contributes to the social and economic well-being of the entire community.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it is a community-driven project that will enable disadvantaged adults, many who were formerly incarcerated, to find jobs and careers in the local food industry. This will include training to work in local restaurants and food manufacturers in need of skilled staff; and providing entrepreneurship instruction with the goal of starting a small business. The components of the program will include basic training to obtaining food handler's certificates, advanced culinary training and classes in entrepreneurship that would include but not be limited to business operations, finance, marketing and technology. The program will utilize the resources of other current programs. These include business instructors and counselors who will teach classes and provide individual counseling. the facility. Working with



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Queens Together division that provides assistance to local restaurants, the project will engage them to be part of the portal for those seeking jobs in the industry.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

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Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Gateway to Greenpoint in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is New York City Department of Environmental Protection located at 59-17 Junction Boulevard, Elmhurst, New York, 11373. The funding would be used to replace the existing open space with a new landscape design that complements the built environment, softens the appearance of hard surfaces, enhances aesthetic qualities, and provides a significant neighborhood amenity. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will create a significant asset for both the environment and the community by collecting stormwater and turning a fallow piece of industrial land into a vibrant green space for the community. It is a great opportunity to use taxpayer funds for the direct investment in improving the lives of local workers and creating resilient infrastructure.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

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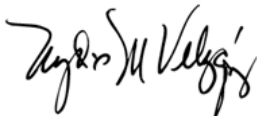
Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for **NYCHA Atlantic Terminal Site 4B Fire Alarm System Upgrades** in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is **New York City Housing Authority** located at 90 Church Street, New York, New York, 10007. The funding will support the identification, removal, and replacement of all existing fire detection system components, both operable and inoperable, as per current NYC Fire Code. The detailed scope of work is determined based on engagement of stakeholders and the specific design for the site.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because NYCHA is one of the largest public housing authorities in the country and approximately 1 in 16 New Yorkers is a NYCHA resident. Ensuring that the fire alarm system is up-to-date is not only of interest to the residents of this public housing development, but would serve the general public at large on fire safety. Such system upgrades would help local emergency personnel and property management to address any potential fire, health, and safety concerns that may arise at this location.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

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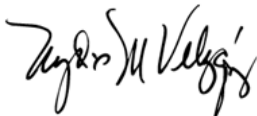
Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for **NYCHA Farragut Houses Playground Upgrade** in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is **New York City Housing Authority** located at 90 Church Street, New York, New York, 10007. The funding will support the renovation of one or more playgrounds, including replacement or upgrade of play equipment, installation of new pavement, and grounds work. The detailed scope of work is determined based on engagement of stakeholders and the specific design for the site.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because renovations to the playground(s) at the development would provide an opportunity for both residents of NYCHA Farragut Houses as well as community members in the neighborhood to access upgraded playgrounds. Such upgrades would allow youth and their families to access various playground recreation with the updated outdoor equipment, to promote healthy lifestyle activities, and to facilitate community gathering in common public areas.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

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Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for **SNA Workforce Center** in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is St. Nicks Alliance Corp., located at 2 Kingsland Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, 11211. The funding will relocate to an upgraded facility at the Throop Corners 100% affordable housing project currently under construction in Brooklyn's Broadway Triangle neighborhood. St. Nicks Alliance is a longstanding community-based nonprofit serving low- and moderate-income people across all ages through employment, education, housing, and health care. The new 6,426 square foot workforce center will include 4 classrooms, 30 cubicles, four offices, two meeting rooms, a computer lab and a conference room, and will significantly expand St. Nicks' training capacity over the next two years across programs, including adult education, skills training, job preparedness, internships, and direct job placement.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because these programs will assist difficult to employ residents to get the skills, they need to secure living wage jobs. The new facility will have more flexible classroom space, accessibility, visibility, and access to walk-by traffic, and upgraded technology. It will result in improved participant/cohort outcomes: enrollment, placement and retention and wage progression.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

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Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for **Sunnyside Streetscape Project** in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Sunnyside District Management Association, Inc., located at 45-56 43rd Street, Sunnyside New York, 11104. The funding will be used to revitalize the streetscape of Sunnyside, utilizing capital money to purchase new street furniture (benches, newsbox stands, bike racks, new tree pits, new garbage cans, and doing sidewalk repair and awning updates throughout the district. This program would install 10 new benches, repaint and repair existing benches, install 6 big newsbox racks that would result in the clutter of 20 smaller publications being removed and a more uniform look being installed.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because improvements to the streetscape would greatly improve the look of Sunnyside, help improve the experience of shoppers and would bring more people to the commercial corridors to shop, spending more money resulting in higher tax receipts for the city, state, and federal government. People like to visit areas where the streets are clean and orderly, and they feel safer, resulting in more visitors.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

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Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for **Sunnyside Community Services – Community Center Renovation** in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Sunnyside Community Services, Inc., located at 43-31 39th Street, Sunnyside New York, 11104. The funding will be utilized for renovations at their main site to improve accessibility and efficiency that will result in a better participant experience. Specifically, Sunnyside will ensure restrooms are ADA compliant, improve the sound and acoustics in multipurpose classrooms primarily used for adult literacy and workforce development programs, perform HVAC upgrades, and make modifications in a space used for a day program for those with dementia. Many of these renovations will result in more energy efficient fixtures and equipment, to reduce energy use and water consumption, for a positive environmental impact.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will benefit NY-07 residents who come to SCS' programs and events in multiple ways. Within the classrooms where SCS holds educational programming and workforce development, there will be increased comfort due to the new HVAC system's regulation of climate control, a reduction of acoustical noise for a better educational experience, and new lighting will also contribute positively to the surroundings and participants' comfort. Restrooms for the social Adult Day program and public use will be made accessible and/or ADA compliant, and energy (water and lighting) efficient. This will benefit people with disabilities and simultaneously help with environmental concerns. The project is a priority as SCS is the largest multi-service community organization in the immediate area, and has been growing its programs and services over the past several years.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS  
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING, COMMUNITY  
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AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**  
**NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**  
7TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR  
WOMEN'S ISSUES  
CONGRESSIONAL  
PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS  
OLDER AMERICANS CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL  
CHILDREN'S CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL ASIAN  
PACIFIC AMERICAN CAUCUS



Sincerely,  
  
Nydia M. Velázquez  
  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**  
**NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**  
7TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, the Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth H.O.B.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro, I am requesting funding for **Switching Lifestylez Youth Initiative in Residence at JACK** in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is JACK Arts, Inc., located at 20 Putnam Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11238. The funding would be used to conduct weekly mentorship sessions and healing workshops with 20 high risk youths from the Forte Greene and Farragut NYCHA developments. These sessions will take place at the performance meets civic space JACK in Clinton Hill and will be led by formerly justice involved adults from Switching Lifestylez and KAVI (Kings Against Violence Initiative) who can offer positive mentorship from their own life experience. The mentors will provide guidance, support, and healing interventions to justice involved youths and their families, offering resources and alternatives to participation in criminal activity. Switching Lifestylez will partner with JACK to provide safe space and access to performances both at JACK and throughout our artistic community.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because across the last few years, the Forte Greene and Farragut NYCHA developments and surrounding communities have seen an increase in violent crime, including but not limited to gun violence. Without the adequate resources youth participation is inevitable but with the necessary resources, Switching Lifestylez can offer youths and their families the tools and guidance to alter the trajectory of their lives. Once the violence is diminished, the Brooklyn youth community will be able to become the next generation of creative thinkers who will go on to affect their own wave of positive change.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

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Nydia M. Velázquez

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March 31, 2023

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The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
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Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro, I am requesting **Western Queens Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development** in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is East River Development Alliance, Inc. (*DBA Urban Upbound*), located at 21-11 40th Avenue., Long Island City NY, 11101.

The funding will support Urban Upbound, in collaboration with its partners including the Queens Public Library, Queens Defenders, and the Queens Economic Development Corporation, as well as local parole offices, seeks to provide underprivileged communities in Western Queens, especially those in the Woodside, Queensbridge, and Ravenswood Houses, with viable and attractive alternatives to involvement in the justice system by supporting and developing small businesses, worker cooperatives, self-employed community members, and budding entrepreneurs. Urban Upbound will accomplish this using a curricula-based approach, one-on-one counseling, and group workshops on topics including navigating loan/capital opportunities; relations with insurance companies; managing inventory and supply chain disruptions; information on laws, regulations, and avoiding fines; managing risk; assistance understanding environmentally friendly business practices; and conducting business-oriented financial literacy and counseling. As industries including technology, clean energy, and real estate expand in NYC, particularly in Queens, it is imperative that residents who are at risk for justice system involvement can access economic opportunities through entrepreneurship via various ownership models.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Urban Upbound's project provides underserved individuals from disadvantaged neighborhoods with tools and resources including



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CONGRESSIONAL ASIAN  
PACIFIC AMERICAN CAUCUS

economic opportunities through employment, entrepreneurship, and small business development, fulfilling our mission to break cycles of poverty and change lives.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Nydia M. Velázquez



Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
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March 31, 2023

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1036 Longworth H.O.B.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for **Construction of new Greenpoint YMCA** in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Young Men's Christian Association of Greater New York., located at 5 West 63rd Street, 6th floor, New York, New York, 10023. The funding will provide capital support to keep the Y on pace with the construction of a state-of-the-art YMCA in the River Ring development in Williamsburg that will serve approximately 20,000 community members each year. The Greenpoint YMCA has been looking for a new location for two decades because the current facility is only one third the size of our average branch and is not fully ADA accessible. The new YMCA in the River Ring development will serve thousands of Greenpoint and Williamsburg community members and be fully ADA accessible.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the new YMCA facility will expand the amount of space available for vital social service programs and as a leading provider of youth services, the YMCA is well placed to leverage taxpayer funds into programs that increase young people's chances of success in the future and decrease the likelihood of costly interventions later on. Studies by Wilder Research have found that "a well-run youth intervention program can yield \$4.89 benefit for every dollar of program cost."

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), 5305(a)(5). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velázquez

Member of Congress